

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.2% (1,505) reside in the Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (286) of Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 71.4% of admissions from the Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District were male and 28.6% were female.
- Over 61.5% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 86.6% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.5% were black non-Latino, 6.5% were Latino, 0.4% were Asians, and 3.0% were other racial categories.
- 67.2% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.8% were married, and 13.8% reported not to be married now.
- 25.9% of admissions had less than high school education, 54.5% completed high school, and 19.7% had more than high school education.
- 24.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 10.1% of those admitted were homeless.
- 12.9% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

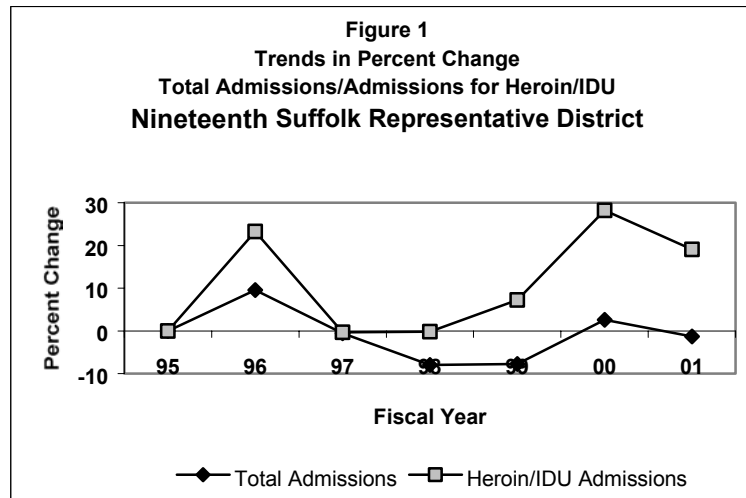
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	1,525	1,071	435	573	368	679	442
FY '96	1,671	1,154	496	596	393	825	557
FY '97	1,516	1,112	463	472	250	640	477
FY '98	1,403	977	397	421	196	652	467
FY '99	1,407	1,012	339	431	169	687	515
FY '00	1,564	1,018	389	444	157	815	622
FY '01	1,505	935	375	462	149	793	542

- Since FY 1995, residents of Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District reported an increase in heroin use, but a decrease in all other drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, heroin use increased by 16%, while alcohol use decreased by 12%, marijuana by 13%, cocaine by 19%, and crack use by 59%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities fell by 1.3% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 19%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Nineteenth Suffolk Representative District.

Table 2					
Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	30.7%	46.5%	5.4%	5.3%	2.2%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol, marijuana and crack as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, heroin and cocaine was higher within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000